

The Its promise of growth and increase, which is greeted with ceremonies intended to renew and invigorate, by means of observed at new moon sympathetic magic, the life of man. Observers, ignorant of ma^{ca}T^{sa} savage superstition, have commonly misinterpreted such rather than customs as worship or adoration paid to the moon. In bfin⁰¹¹³ point of fact the ceremonies of new moon are probably in intended many cases rather magical than religious. The Indians of symp^latheti^{tae} Ucayali River ill Peru hail the appearance of the new cali the moon with great joy. They make long speeches to her, accompanied with vehement gesticulations, imploring her protection and begging that she will be so good as to invigorate their bodies.¹ On the day when the new moon first appeared, it was a custom with the Indians of San Juan Capistrano, in California, to call together all the young men for the purpose of its celebration. "*Correrla hina* !" shouted one of the old men, "Come, my boys, the moon ! the moon !" Immediately the young men began to run about in a disorderly fashion as if they were distracted, while the old men danced in a circle, saying, "As the moon dieth, and cometh to life again, so we also having to die will again live." ² An old traveller tells us that at the appearance of every new moon the negroes of the Congo clapped their hands and cried out, sometimes falling on their knees, "So may I renew my life as thou art renewed." But if the sky happened to be clouded, they die! nothing, alleging that the planet had lost its virtue.³ A somewhat similar custom prevails among the Ovambo of South-Western Africa. On the first moonlight night of the new moon,

young and old,
 their bodies smeared with white earth,
 perhaps in imitation
 of the planet's silvery light, dance to the moon
 and address
 to it wishes which they feel sure will be
 granted.⁴ We may
 conjecture that among these wishes is a prayer
 for a renewal
 of life. When a Masai sees the new moon he
 throws a
 twig or stone at it with his left hand, and
 says, " Give me

¹ W. S my the and F. Lowe, *Narrative* ³ Merolla, "Voyage to
 Con<n>," in
of a Journey from Lima to Para J. Pinkerton's
Voyages and Travels,
 (London, 1836), p. 230. xvi. 273.
² Father G. Boscana, "Chinig-
 chmich," in *Life in California* ^ by an ⁴ II. Schinz,
De.utsch - Siidwest-
American [A. Robinson] (New York, *Afrika* (Oldenburg and
 Leipsic, N.D.),
 1846), pp. 298 ^, "~ p. 319.